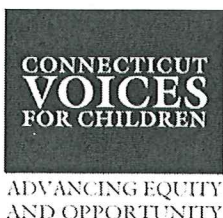


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Testimony Supporting S.B. 330: An Act Establishing a Human Right to Equal Enjoyment
of the Highest Attainable Standard of Health

Karen Siegel, M.P.H.
Health Policy Fellow, Connecticut Voices for Children
Insurance and Real Estate Committee
February 14, 2019

Senator Lesser, Representative Scanlon, Senator Hartley, Representative Dathan, and esteemed members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee,

My name is Karen Siegel and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of Connecticut Voices for Children, a research-based child advocacy organization working to ensure that all Connecticut children have an equitable opportunity to achieve their full potential.

The World Health Organization's constitution poses "the highest attainable standard of health as a fundamental right of every human being." By including this statement, the organization intended to encourage nations to allocate the maximum available resources to ensure access to quality health care and to the promotion of positive social determinants of health—from clean water to quality education—for every person.

While this proposal is aspirational, it can have real-world impact on the values that the state of Connecticut expresses through our budget and in how the state oversees services for its residents. In a state like ours, which reports high measures of health and wellbeing on average while Black and Latino residents experience dramatic disparities in health compared to White residents, equal enjoyment of such a right is of particular importance. ***We support this proposal because it offers an opportunity to ensure that health equity is at the core of our state's vision*** even as we address an ongoing fiscal crisis and cope with unforeseen challenges and opportunities in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony in support of S.B. 330 I can be reached with any questions at ksiegel@ctvoices.org or at 203-498-4240, ext. 120.